

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend cancel claims 1-19 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Please enter new claims 20-40.

The current status of all claims in the application is indicated as follows:

20. (new) A method for performing a facsimile-based operation over a communications network, the method comprising:

connecting a sending facsimile system to a network-based facsimile service;

requesting the network-based facsimile service to establish a connection over the communications network between the sending facsimile system and a recipient facsimile system; and

performing a facsimile-based operation between the sending facsimile system and the recipient facsimile system over the communications network.

21. (new) The method according to claim 20, wherein the communications network includes at least one of a local-area network, a wide-area network, a public-switched telephone network and the Internet.

22. (new) The method according to claim 20, wherein requesting the network-based facsimile service to establish the connection over the communications network between the sending facsimile system and the recipient facsimile system includes communicating a network-based address associated with the sending facsimile system to the network-based facsimile service.

23. (new) The method according to claim 22, wherein the recipient facsimile system includes an associated network-based address, and

wherein at least one of the network-based address associated with the sending facsimile system and the network-based address associated with the recipient facsimile system is a dynamic network-based address.

24. (new) The method according to claim 20, wherein the connection established over the communications network is a peer-to-peer connection over the

communications network between the sending facsimile system and the recipient facsimile system.

25. (new) The method according to claim 20, wherein the connection established over the communications network is a peer-service-peer connection over the communications network between the sending facsimile system and the recipient facsimile system.

26. (new) The method according to claim 20, wherein the sending facsimile system and the recipient facsimile system are each one of a personal computer, a facsimile machine, a personal digital assistant and a Web phone.

27. (new) A method for enabling a facsimile-based operation over a communications network, the method comprising:

receiving a request at a network-based facsimile service from a first facsimile system for performing a facsimile-based operation between the first facsimile system and a second facsimile system over a communications network, the request including information relating to a network-address associated with the first facsimile system and identification information relating to the second facsimile system; and

enabling the facsimile-based operation by establishing a connection over the communications network between the first facsimile system and the second facsimile system under control of the network-based facsimile service.

28. (new) The method according to claim 27, wherein enabling the facsimile-based operation includes determining a network-based address for the second facsimile system.

29. (new) The method according to claim 28, wherein at least one of the network-based address associated with the first facsimile system and the network-based address associated with the second facsimile system is a dynamic network-based address.

30. (new) The method according to claim 27, wherein the communications network includes at least one of a local-area network, a wide-area network, a public-switched telephone network and the Internet.

31. (new) The method according to claim 27, wherein the connection established over the communications network between the first facsimile system and the second facsimile system is a peer-to-peer connection over the communications network between the first facsimile system and the second facsimile system.

32. (new) The method according to claim 27, wherein the connection established over the communications network between the first facsimile system and the second facsimile system is a peer-service-peer connection over the communications network between the first facsimile system and the second facsimile system.

33. (new) The method according to claim 27, wherein the first facsimile system and the second facsimile system are each one of a personal computer, a facsimile machine, a personal digital assistant and a Web phone.

34. (new) A computer-readable medium including computer-executable instructions for a method for performing a facsimile-based operation over a communications network, the method comprising:

connecting from a sending facsimile system to a network-based facsimile service;

requesting the network-based facsimile service to establish a connection over the communications network between the sending facsimile system and a recipient facsimile system; and

performing a facsimile-based operation between the sending facsimile system and the recipient facsimile system over the communications network.

35. (new) The computer-readable medium according to claim 34, wherein the communications network includes at least one of a local-area network, a wide-area network, a public-switched telephone network and the Internet.

36. (new) The computer-readable medium according to claim 34, wherein requesting the network-based facsimile service to establish the connection over the communications network between the sending facsimile system and the recipient facsimile system includes communicating a network-based address associated with the sending facsimile system to the network-based facsimile service.

37. (new) The computer-readable medium according to claim 36, wherein the recipient facsimile system includes an associated network-based address, and
wherein at least one of the network-based address associated with the sending facsimile system and the network-based address associated with the recipient facsimile system is a dynamic network-based address.

38. (new) The computer-readable medium according to claim 34, wherein the connection established over the communications network is a peer-to-peer connection over the communications network between the sending facsimile system and the recipient facsimile system.

39. (new) The computer-readable medium according to claim 34, wherein the connection established over the communications network is a peer-service-peer connection over the communications network between the sending facsimile system and the recipient facsimile system.

40. (new) The computer-readable medium according to claim 34, wherein the sending facsimile system and the recipient facsimile system are each one of a personal computer, a facsimile machine, a personal digital assistant and a Web phone.